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Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel. State Corporation Commission Ex Parte: In the matter of establishing regulations for a shared solar program pursuant to §

56-594.3 of the Code of Virginia

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Company

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September 21, 2021

## BY ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Bernard Logan, Clerk State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center Tyler Building – First Floor 1300 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel. State Corporation Commission Ex Parte:
In the matter of establishing regulations for a shared solar program
pursuant to § 56-594.3 of the Code of Virginia
Case No. PUR-2020-00125

Dear Mr. Logan:

Please find enclosed for electronic filing in the above-captioned proceeding Testimony and Exhibits of Virginia Electric and Power Company. This filing is being made pursuant to Ordering Paragraph (13) of the Commission's July 23, 2021 Order for Notice and Hearing, which states that the Company may file "any testimony and exhibits by which it expects to establish its case regarding the [minimum bill] Proposal and bill credit rate."

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in regard to the enclosed.

Highest regards,

/s/ Jontille D. Ray

Jontille D. Ray

**Enclosures** 

cc: David J. DePippo, Esq.
Joseph K. Reid, III, Esq.
Timothy D. Patterson, Esq.
Service List

## WITNESS DIRECT TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Witness: Robert J. Trexler

<u>Title</u>: Director – Regulation

### Summary:

Mr. Trexler's testimony presents the Company's proposal for (1) establishing the bill credit rate to be used in the Shared Solar Program ("Program"); and (2) the Company's minimum bill proposal for the Program. His testimony also seeks the Commission's approval of its proposal to recover the costs of serving low-income customers through the Fuel Factor since these customers are exempted by statute from paying the minimum bill.

With respect to the bill credit rate methodology, the Company proposes to use the total revenues and sales from FERC Form 1 for the Virginia jurisdiction. The revenue and sales by rate class data derived from FERC Form 1 would provide the relevant information to the Commission in a timely manner, and mirrors the methodology adopted by the Commission to determine the bill credit rate in the Multi-Family Shared Solar Program (PUR-2020-00124).

Mr. Trexler explains that the Company's rationale for its minimum bill proposal is to ensure that participating customers pay their share of the costs associated with their electric services they will continue to receive from the Company, including use of delivery infrastructure, generation balancing services, and administrative and billing support, even as they receive credits for electricity generated in the Program. Accordingly, the Company proposes to apply a minimum bill against subscribers' shared solar bill credit in each billing period to include the following components:

- <u>Delivery Charge</u>: This charge captures the costs of using Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers. It is calculated by taking the average delivery charges based upon revenues and sales from FERC Form 1 for the Virginia jurisdiction.
- Generation Balancing Service Charge: This charge accounts for the Company's cost of providing generation supply to ensure customers receive continuous electric service. It is calculated by netting average generation service costs (including non-bypassable charges) against the subscriber's avoided cost benefit.
- <u>Administrative Charge</u>: This charge captures the costs of technology development, workforce expansion, and billing preparation and coordination services, among others, necessary to support the Program. This component is still in development.

For each component of the proposed minimum bill, the Company would multiply the rates identified by the kWh of the subscription that is used to calculate the bill credit for the period. The estimated typical minimum bill, excluding Administrative Charges, for a residential customer assuming a 1,000 kWh subscription, is \$74.28.

## **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ROBERT J. TREXLER** ON BEHALF OF

## VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY **BEFORE THE**

## STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2020-00125

1	Q.	Please state your name, business address, and position of employment with Virginia
2		Electric and Power Company ("Dominion Energy Virginia" or the "Company").
3	A.	My name is Robert J. Trexler, and my business address is 120 Tredegar Street,
4		Richmond, Virginia 23219. I am Director of Regulation for the Company. A statement
5		of my background and qualifications is attached as Appendix A.
6	Q.	What are your responsibilities as Director of Regulation?
7	A.	I lead the team that is responsible for the Company's electric rate-related activities
8		involving implementation of customer rates. I also have the responsibility for the
9		development and administration of contracts with special contract customers and non-
10		jurisdictional customers, and for responding to customer requests concerning their
11		electric rates. Accordingly, I often work directly with customers who are actively
12		considering alternative rate design and alternatives for renewable energy.
13	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony in this case?
14	A.	I am presenting testimony in support of (1) the Company's proposal for establishing the
15		bill credit rate methodology to be used in the Shared Solar Program; and (2) the
16		Company's Minimum Bill Proposal for the Shared Solar Program ("Program").
17		Relatedly, the Company seeks the Commission's approval of its proposal to recover its
18		costs of serving low-income customers through the Fuel Factor since these customers are
19		exempted by statute from paying the minimum bill. For reasons discussed herein, and in

light of the Commission's precedent and guidance in the Multi-Family Shared Solar Program proceeding,<sup>1</sup> the Company has modified its minimum bill proposal from its previous filings in this docket.

## 4 Q. How is your testimony organized?

A.

- My testimony addresses each of the two primary topics identified for determination by
  the State Corporation Commission of Virginia ("Commission") in its July 23, 2021 Order
  for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding—the bill credit rate methodology and the
  minimum bill proposal. My testimony is organized as follows:
  - I. Bill Credit Rate Methodology
    - II. Minimum Bill Proposal

## 11 Q. Can you briefly describe the Shared Solar Program?

Yes. Virginia Code § 56-594.3 (the "Shared Solar Statute" or the "Statute") provides the statutory framework for the Program and establishes the mechanism under which a subscriber may purchase a portion of the output of a shared solar facility, and then receive a bill credit on their electric bill to offset incurred charges of their electric service. Fundamentally, the Shared Solar Program acts as a companion to a subscriber's principal tariff. This means that subscribers will continue to purchase their electric service from the Company in accordance with their individual, Commission-approved principal tariff, just as any similarly situated non-Program participant customer. The only difference is that a subscriber will receive a credit on their bill for this companion service under the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Commonwealth of Virginia, ex rel: State Corporation Commission, Ex Parte: In the matter of establishing regulations for a multi-family shared solar program pursuant to § 56-585.1:12 of the Code of Virginia, Case No. PUR-2020-00124, Order (June 29, 2021).

Program. Consistent with this construct, the Statute provides that each subscriber shall pay a minimum bill.

### I. BILL CREDIT RATE METHODOLOGY

Q. In the context of the Shared Solar Program, what is a "bill credit" and a "bill credit
 rate?"

A.

Virginia Code § 56-594.3 A defines a "bill credit" as "the monetary value of the electricity, in kilowatt-hours, generated by the shared solar facility allocated to a subscriber to offset that subscriber's electricity bill." The Shared Solar Statute states that "a utility shall provide a bill credit for the proportional output of a shared solar facility attributable to that subscriber . . . ." It goes on to say that "[t]he value of the bill credit for the subscriber shall be calculated by multiplying the subscriber's portion of the kilowatt-hour electricity production from the shared solar facility by the applicable bill credit rate for the subscriber."

The "applicable bill credit rate" is "the dollar-per-kilowatt-hour rate used to calculate the subscriber's bill credit." The bill credit is the vehicle by which subscribers receive the monetary benefit of their shared solar facility's generation, and the bill credit rate establishes how much monetary benefit should be given to subscribers for a given amount of electric generation. In Subsection C, the Shared Solar Statute states that "[e]ach class's applicable bill credit rate shall be calculated by the Commission annually by dividing revenues to the class by sales, measured in kilowatt-hours, to that class to yield a bill credit rate for the class (\$/kWh)." The Statute leaves it to the Commission to set a particular rate.

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- 2 A. In short, the Commission is charged with establishing the bill credit rate and has elected
- 3 to do so through the hearing process in this proceeding.

Hearing in this proceeding, the Commission stated:

Rule 80, as adopted, states simply that "[t]he bill credit shall be calculated in accordance
with 20 VAC 5-340-60 F and § 56-594.3 C of the Code of Virginia." Rule 60 F 4 states
that "[t]he Commission shall establish the yearly applicable bill credit rate for the
subscriber's residential, commercial, or industrial rate class." In its Order for Notice and

[S]ince the Order Adopting Rules provided that the Commission shall establish the annual bill credit rate for the subscriber's rate class but did not specify the methodology for establishing the bill credit rate, we find that the hearing we set herein should also consider the methodology to be used to establish the bill credit rate, and the resulting bill credit for each customer class produced by this methodology, for the Shared Solar Program.

## Q. What is the Company's proposed bill credit rate methodology for the Shared Solar Program?

The Company proposes to use the total revenues and sales from FERC Form 1, for the Virginia jurisdictional revenue classes. The revenues and sales by rate class data derived from FERC Form 1 would provide the relevant information to the Commission in a timely manner. The Company reports the Virginia information from FERC Form 1 to the Commission by March 31 of each year. As part of this filing, the Company can provide jurisdictionalized revenues and sales data by revenue class and a calculation of the applicable bill credit rate for the Program.

Additionally, in its June 29, 2021 Order in the Multi-Family Shared Solar Program docket, the Commission found that "because the FERC Form 1 is more timely and provides data by jurisdiction, and because both Dominion and KU-ODP submit Virginia-specific FERC Form 1 information to the Commission each March, using the FERC Form 1 data to calculate the bill credit rate is preferable." To ensure consistency in the administration of the Multi-Family and Shared Solar Programs, the Company encourages the Commission to adopt this bill credit rate methodology for the Shared Solar Program as well.

## 9 Q. Is this a change from what the Company has previously proposed?

A.

A.

Yes. The Company believes that methodological consistency between the Shared Solar and Multi-Family cases is of primary importance. Accordingly, in light of the Commission's decision in the Multi-Family Shared Solar proceeding that FERC Form 1 data should be used to determine the bill credit rate, the Company believes it would be reasonable to utilize the same information in the Shared Solar Program.

## III. MINIMUM BILL PROPOSAL

## A. <u>Legal Framework</u>

## Q. What is the "minimum bill" as that term is used in the Shared Solar Program?

The Shared Solar Statute defines "minimum bill" as "an amount determined by the Commission under subsection D that subscribers are required to, at a minimum, pay on their utility bill each month after accounting for any bill credits." In other words, the minimum bill is the least amount that Program participants must pay on their monthly bill, even after generation credits are applied, to pay for certain services provided by the Company to subscribers.

1	Q.	What is the statutory basis for including a minimum bill as part of the Shared Solar
2		Program?
3	A.	One of the requirements of the Program directed by statute is that "[t]he Commission
4		shall establish a minimum bill," and the Statute directs that "[e]ach subscriber shall pay a
5		minimum bill." By law, the minimum bill may be modified over time and low-income

customers are exempt from paying it.

A.

With respect to the costs to be included in the minimum bill, the Statute states that the minimum bill must include "the costs of all utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service and administrative costs of the Shared Solar Program."

Furthermore, "[i]n establishing the minimum bill, the Commission shall (i) consider further costs the Commission deems relevant to ensure subscribing customers pay a fair share of the costs of providing electric services; and (ii) minimize the costs shifted to customers not in a shared solar program."

## Q. Has the Commission enacted regulations that further address the composition of the minimum bill?

Yes. On December 23, 2020, the Commission adopted regulations – 20 VAC 5-340-10, et seq. – to implement the Shared Solar Statute and establish the Program ("Rules"). Section 80 of the Rules specifically addresses minimum bill composition. It restates the language of the Statute – that the minimum bill is to be comprised of "all utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service and administrative costs of the shared solar program." Subsection A 2 of Rule 80 further provides that these costs "shall be limited to such costs as determined by the Commission to be just and reasonable based on evidence provided by the parties to the evidentiary hearing process. Such costs must

1		reflect incremental costs of the shared solar program and not otherwise recovered by the
2		utility from participating customers."
3		The Rule provides factors which "shall be considered by the Commission in determining
4		whether costs proposed by the utility are incremental to the Shared Solar Program and
5		eligible for inclusion in the minimum bill." These factors are as follows:
6 7		A. The extent to which the costs are utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service for the shared solar program;
8		B. The extent to which the costs are administrative costs of the shared solar program;
9 10 11		C. Whether including the cost in the minimum bill is necessary to ensure subscribing customers pay a fair share of the costs of providing electric services to the subscribers;
12 13		D. Whether including the cost in the minimum bill will minimize the costs shifted to customers not in a shared solar program; and
14 15		E. Whether including the costs in the minimum bill is otherwise consistent with the requirements of § 56-594.3 of the Code of Virginia.
16	Q.	Do the Shared Solar Statute or the Rules speak to the purpose of the minimum bill?
17	A.	Yes. Both the Statute and the Rules emphasize that the purpose of the minimum bill is to
18		promote fairness by ensuring that subscribing customers pay their fair share of the costs
19		of the Program, and conversely, safeguard non-participating customers from bearing
20		shifted Program costs.
21	Q.	How will the minimum bill components and amounts be determined?
22	A.	Rule 80 states that "[t]he Commission shall convene a proceeding to determine any
23		monthly administrative charge and the components of the minimum bill." The
24		Commission's July 23, 2021 Order for Notice and Hearing set a hearing in this docket, in
25		part, to establish the minimum bill.

### В. Company's Minimum Bill Proposal

2 O. Before you describe the Company's minimum bill proposal and its components, please outline the Company's general rationale in developing its proposal.

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A. Because the Shared Solar Program largely functions as a companion to a subscriber's Principal Tariff, the minimum bill is an essential feature of the Program. Subscribers in the Shared Solar Program will continue to purchase their electric service from the Company in accordance with their individual, Commission-approved Principal Tariff but the subscriber will now receive a credit on their bill for this companion service under the Program.

The operability and long-term viability of the Program depends on the utility's electric supply and delivery infrastructure, generation balancing service, and program administration, including administrative billing support systems. While the Program is intended to provide generation credits to offset some of the participating customers' generation supply, the Program will not satisfy all of subscribers' electric needs. Participants will still rely on utility services that carry considerable costs that all utility customers are required to pay.<sup>2</sup> These are the same utility services the participants relied on before they subscribed and will rely on as a Program participant or Subscriber. If subscribing customers are exempted from these costs, such costs would be shifted to other utility customers who are not participating in the Program. An appropriately comprehensive minimum bill is a reasonable means to ensure that participating customers pay for the costs of utility services they will be consuming, even as they receive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Unless exempted by statute or Commission Order.

1		generation credits through the Program. Appropriately defining the parameters of the
2		minimum bill is the only safeguard against unfair cost-shifting to non-participating
3		customers.
4	Q.	Can you explain how the minimum bill will impact the Company's billing
5		calculations and the bill subscribers receive from the Company?
6	A.	Yes. First, as I described above, participating customers will continue to be billed for
7		their metered usage for their account at the Commission approved rates of their Principal
8		Tariff.
9		Second, a bill credit will be calculated by multiplying the subscriber's portion of the
10		kilowatt-hour ("kWh") electricity production of the shared solar facility (the subscriber's
11		subscription in the Program) by the bill credit rate. This credit will be provided through a
12		companion tariff to the Principal Tariff. The Shared Solar Statute defines "Subscription"
13		as "a contract or other agreement between a subscriber and the owner of a shared solar
14		facility. A subscription shall be sized such that the estimated bill credits do not exceed
15		the subscriber's average annual bill for the customer account to which the subscription is
16		attributed."
17		Finally, a minimum bill would be calculated for the Program and will also be part of the
18		companion tariff for the Program. The Company's proposal is such that the minimum
19		bill discussed herein is based upon the amount of subscription that is credited to a
20		Subscriber in a given billing period.
21		The Company's proposal is to apply the minimum bill against the bill credit in a given
22		billing period to determine a net bill credit. To the extent that part of the net bill credit

1		exceeds the customer's bill for their Principal tariff, the excess will be carried over to a
2		future billing period in accordance with 20 VAC 5-340-60 F.
3	Q	Can you explain the cost components that are included in the Company's minimum
4		bill proposal?
5	A.	Yes. There are three components that capture the Company's costs in supporting the
6		Shared Solar Program: (1) Delivery Charges; (2) Generation Balancing Service Charge;
7		and (3) Administrative Charges. Together, these comprise the "costs of all utility
8		infrastructure and services used to provide electric service and administrative costs of the
9		Shared Solar Program," as directed by the Shared Solar Statute to be included in the
10		minimum bill.
11		1. <u>Delivery Charges</u>
12	Q.	The first component you mentioned is "Delivery Charges." Please describe this cost
12 13	Q.	The first component you mentioned is "Delivery Charges." Please describe this cost component.
	Q. A.	
13		component.
13 14		component.  The Delivery Charges component captures the costs of utilizing Company transmission
13 14 15		component.  The Delivery Charges component captures the costs of utilizing Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers. For this component, the
13 14 15 16		component.  The Delivery Charges component captures the costs of utilizing Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers. For this component, the Company proposes that Program customers pay similar transmission and distribution
13 14 15 16 17		component.  The Delivery Charges component captures the costs of utilizing Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers. For this component, the Company proposes that Program customers pay similar transmission and distribution charges as non-participating customers pay under their Principal Tariff since they will use
13 14 15 16 17 18		component.  The Delivery Charges component captures the costs of utilizing Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers. For this component, the Company proposes that Program customers pay similar transmission and distribution charges as non-participating customers pay under their Principal Tariff since they will use the electric grid in the same way after they enrolled in the Program as they did before
13 14 15 16 17 18 19		component.  The Delivery Charges component captures the costs of utilizing Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers. For this component, the Company proposes that Program customers pay similar transmission and distribution charges as non-participating customers pay under their Principal Tariff since they will use the electric grid in the same way after they enrolled in the Program as they did before enrollment.

specifically, the Company proposes to utilize class average delivery charges based upon revenues from FERC Form 1, functionalized in accordance with the previous year's COS study for the Virginia jurisdictional classes to determine the transmission and distribution components of the minimum bill. Multiplying this average cost of transmission and distribution by the kWh amount of the shared solar subscription applied to a customer's bill in a given month would effectively charge the Subscribers for these delivery services at a rate the average non-participant paid in the previous calendar year.

## Q. Why is the Company proposing to include Delivery Charges as a component of the minimum bill?

class:

A.

The Delivery Charges component would charge customers for the costs of utilizing

Company transmission and distribution infrastructure to deliver electricity to customers

that are not provided through the Shared Solar Program, but that are essential for

continued electric service. A fundamental policy objective undergirding the minimum

bill is that Shared Solar customers bear the cost of utility services they receive. The

Shared Solar Program will operate by means of a crediting system whereby the solar

generation resource will produce energy that will be sold into the grid, with the value of

that energy credited back to participating customers. The Program does not have its own
delivery component, nor, as a value crediting scheme, does it need one. For subscribing

customers, electricity must be delivered to them via utility transmission and distribution
infrastructure in the same way as if they were not a Shared Solar subscriber. Program

customers should not pay less than non-participants for the same unbundled services.

Table 1 identifies the proposed Distribution and Transmission components by revenue

Table 1: Distribution and Transmission Components by Revenue Class

Minimum Bill Component	Residential	Commercial	Industrial
Distribution Service (\$/kWh)	0.02732	0.01125	0.00471
Transmission Service (\$/kWh)	0.01989	0.00983	0.00769

Based on 2020 FERC Form 1 VA JUR information

These components, like the bill credit, will change annually.

- 4 Q. Is there a legal basis to include Delivery Charges as a component of the minimum bill?
- A. Yes. The General Assembly identified "costs of all utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service" as a proper component of the minimum bill. These charges also meet the Commission's definition for "incremental costs" under the factor test in Rule 80 A 2 of the Commission's regulations:
  - Factor (A): Delivery services constitute "utility infrastructure and services used to provide electric service for the shared solar program." The Program has no delivery component, so this service is essential for customers to receive electricity.
  - Factor (C): If the costs of subscribing customers' delivery service are not included in the minimum bill, they will be borne by non-participating customers. Inclusion of these charges in the minimum bill is the only means to ensure "subscribing customers pay a fair share of the costs of providing electric services to the subscribers" and therefore "minimize the costs shifted to customers not in a shared solar program," consistent with Va. Code § 56-594.3. D.
  - Factor (D): As I noted previously, exempting subscribing customers from paying the costs of their energy delivery service will result in those costs being "shifted to customers not in a shared solar program."

## 2. Generation Balancing Service Charge

- Q. The second component is "Generation Balancing Service Charge." Please describe
   this cost component.
- 4 A. The Generation Balancing Service Charge captures the Company's cost of providing
  5 generation supply service to ensure customers receive electricity even as they incorporate
  6 the benefits of intermittent resources.

## 7 Q. Why is this component a needed element of the minimum bill?

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A.

The intermittent nature of solar generating facilities dictates that customers must rely on the grid and its generation sources to guarantee continuous electric service since shared solar generation does not match a subscriber's entire usage on a continuous basis. Furthermore, a solar output profile is a relatively poor match for any customer's actual load profile. Customers rely on the grid for power 7 days a week, 24 hours per day, daytime and nighttime, sunny and cloudy days alike. Solar output is greatest around noon to mid-afternoon on a sunny day, is in decline when customer load typically peaks in the late afternoon in summer, and is non-existent or almost so when customer load typically peaks during winter mornings and evenings. In the Shared Solar Program context, even when the facilities are operating, the energy does not go directly from the generator to the customer; rather, the system receives an avoided cost benefit for the energy those facilities produce and inject into the grid. And because they are not always operating and likely not matching the subscriber's electrical usage at all times (for example, during nighttime, cloudy days, winter days, facility outages, etc.), subscribers will rely on utility system generation for all or part of their energy needs every day. In light of these realities, the Company must ensure that it accounts for the energy needs of subscribing customers 100% of the time, which necessarily includes developing, operating, generating, and purchasing enough energy to serve these customers, regardless of their participation in the Shared Solar Program. Including generation balancing to account for the costs of doing this as a component of the minimum bill is consistent with the focus of Va. Code § 56-594.3 D.

## 6 Q. How would the Generation Balancing Service Charge be calculated?

A.

A. To calculate the Generation Balancing Service Charge rate of the minimum bill, the

Company proposes to net the total of the customer's electricity supply generation costs

(including non-bypassable charges), as a non-participant would pay, against the avoided

cost value. However, the Generation Balancing Service Charge rate component of the

minimum bill can never be less than the applicable non-bypassable charges, if applicable.

## Q. Can you explain what non-bypassable charges would be included in this component of the minimum bill?

Yes. The Virginia Clean Economy Act ("VCEA") and other state law make certain costs non-bypassable for all utility customers, unless specifically exempted. Shared Solar Program customers are subject to these charges, and the Company proposes to include the charges in the generation component of the minimum bill, as is the case with all other customers. This avoids creation of an adverse incentive for customers to join a Shared Solar Program as a means of evading required non-bypassable charges, and prevents cost-shifting to the Company's remaining customers. The Company proposes to include any and all non-bypassable charges as specified in, and required by, the Virginia Code and approved by the Commission, both now and in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, Rider CE, Rider RPS, Rider PPA (as proposed by Staff in the Rider RPS

proceeding), and Rider CCR.

A.

As I noted above, for calculation purposes, the customer's electricity supply generation costs (including non-bypassable charges) would be netted against the subscriber's avoided cost benefit credit to determine the amount owed. However, because non-bypassable charges are, by law, non-bypassable (except where exempted), the Generation Balancing Service Charge component of the minimum bill can never be less than the non-bypassable charges.

## 8 Q. How does the Company plan to determine the avoided cost credit?

- The Company proposes to structure the avoided cost credits to include a forecasted energy credit as well as a credit based on the market value of the capacity benefit provided to the system by the Shared Solar generating facility. The avoided cost credits would be reset annually using forecasting methods for PJM Interconnection, LLC ("PJM") energy and capacity prices consistent with those used in the Company's annual Fuel Factor filing. Specifically, energy prices would be forecasted using market curves for PJM Dominion Zone day-ahead locational marginal pricing, and capacity prices would be based on the results of the applicable Base Residual Auctions ("BRA") for capacity resources. The Company proposes to provide existing and prospective participants 90 days' notice of the updated avoided cost credits.
- Q. Mr. Trexler, given what you have just described, can you provide a representative
  example of how the Generation Balancing Charge calculation would be conducted?

  Yes. Using recent pricing (6/1/21-5/31/22 forecast), the following is a model for how the
  Company would calculate the Shared Solar Generation Balancing Charge:

## Generation Service Charge:

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The numbers in Table 2 below represent 2020 data provided in FERC Form 1,

functionalized in accordance with the 2020 COS study, for the Virginia jurisdiction. This

information would change from year-to-year, but for 2020, the proposed Generation

Service Charge by revenue class would be as follows:

## Table 2: Generation Service Rates by Revenue Class

Description	Residential	Commercial	Industrial
Generation Service (\$/kWh)	0.07044	0.05012	0.04661

Based on 2020 FERC Form 1 VA JUR information

## **Avoided Cost Credit:**

•	Energy
---	--------

- o Forecasted On-Peak DOM Zone Price (for 6/1/21 5/31/22)
- o \$35.34/MW (3.534 cents/kWh)

## • Capacity:

- o \$140.00/MW-day (actual BRA result for 6/1/21 5/31/22)
- o Assume 34.4% solar value for capacity = \$48.16/MW-day
- o Assume 25% capacity factor for solar in a day for 1 MW: 1 MW x 24 hrs
- 15 x 25% = 6 MWH/day on average
- 16  $\circ$  \$48.16/MW-day / 6 MWH/day = \$8.03/MWH (0.803 cents/kWh)

## • Total Avoided Cost Credit Pricing:

- 18 Energy: \$35.34/MW (3.534 cents/kWh)
- + Capacity: \$8.03/MWH (0.803 cents/kWh)
- Total: 4.337 cents/kWh

1		The Generation Balancing Service Charge nets the customer's Generation Service Charge				
2		against the avoided cost price calculation. The difference is then multiplied by the				
3		amount of the customer's subscription to determine the minimum bill. For a residential				
4		customer the calculation would be as follows:				
5		Generation Service Charge: <sup>3</sup> 7.044 cents/kWh				
6		Avoided Cost Credit price: (4.337 cents/kWh)				
7		Generation Balancing Service Charge: 2.707 cents/kWh				
8		In the above example, the rate for the Generation Balancing Service Charge for a residential customer would be 2.707 cents per kWh.				
0	Q.	How does the Generation Balancing Service Charge comply with the legal				
1		requirements for the minimum bill?				
12	A.	If we apply the factor test the Commission set forth in Rule 80 A 2 of its regulations, it is				
13		clear the Generation Balancing Service Charge is an incremental cost of the Program that				
14		should be included in the minimum bill.				
15		• Factor (A): The solar generation in the Program is insufficient on its own to meet				
16		100% of subscriber's energy needs on a continuous basis. The Company's				
17		generation balancing service is, therefore, a "utility service used to provide				
18		electric service for the shared solar program." The Program could not exist				
19		without it, and it is a cost to subscribers, as the users of that energy, should bear.				
20		• Factors (C) and (D): The components of the Generation Balancing Service				

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Charge are certain to be incurred, and the Program does not provide another cost

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Based upon Table 2 for a residential customer.

recovery mechanism by which to capture them. If they are not included in the minimum bill, they will be shifted to non-participating customers.

## C. Administrative Charges

Q. The final cost component of the minimum bill you mentioned was "Administrative
 Charges." Please explain this component.

A.

Administrative costs are incremental costs associated with the utility's administration of the Shared Solar Program. Both the Statute and the Commission's regulations identify "administrative costs" as a category of costs to be included in the minimum bill. The Company will incur a variety of costs to administer the Program. These costs include technology development, workforce expansion, and billing preparation and coordination services, among others. For example, the Company previously estimated these costs to total approximately \$302,300 per year, to be incurred beginning on the effective date of the Shared Solar program. These costs include full time salary and benefits for one program manager and one business performance analyst, grossed up to 2023 dollars, who will work in support of the Program.

Moreover, the Company is tasked with providing customer bills, and calculating and providing applicable bill credits in cooperation with subscriber organizations. The Company intends to utilize its forthcoming customer information platform ("CIP") to automate this process to the greatest extent possible, but elements of the Program may require specialized program configuration or ongoing manual processes to comply with Program requirements. To the extent the CIP must be altered to accommodate the Program, these incremental costs would be included in the administrative charge of the minimum bill. Also, at this early stage, data transfer protocols have also not been

1		established with subscriber organizations. The costs associated with some of these
2		variables are uncertain at this time, but to the extent there are incremental costs
3		attributable to the Program, such costs would be included in the administrative charge to
4		be borne by subscribing customers.
5	Q.	With the understanding that some of the administrative charges of the Program are
6		still in the development stage, can you provide a high-level estimate of the expected
7		administrative charges?
8	A.	At this time, we can only estimate what it might cost to manually bill a customer,
9		including reviewing the subscriber organization's list of subscriptions, if there are limited
10		participants. However, if the program reaches 150MW—or potentially 200MW—and
11		largely serves residential customers, then manual billing and handling will not be tenable
12		and the automation provided by the CIP will be critical.
13	Q.	Now that you have identified all of the components, how is the minimum bill
14		calculated?
15	A.	For the Distribution, Transmission, and Generation Balancing Service Charge
16		components of the minimum bill, the Company would multiply the rates identified above
17		by the kWh of subscription that is utilized for calculation of the bill credit for the
18		particular billing period to determine the minimum bill.
19		Since the Administrative Charges have not been fully developed at this time, it would be
20		premature to identify whether they would be a monthly charge or a kWh charge. The
21		Company proposes that the Administrative Charges be finalized in the Company's filing
22		of the actual Program tariff.

Q. Has the Company estimated a typical minimum bill for a residential customer, assuming a 1,000 kWh subscription?

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A. Yes. Following the Company's proposed approach above to utilize class average charges based upon revenues from FERC Form 1, functionalized in accordance with the previous year's COS study for the Virginia jurisdictional classes for determining the distribution, transmission and generation service charges that the Company proposes to use (along with the avoided cost credit but not including the administrative charge) in the minimum bill, the Company estimates that a subscribing residential customer purchasing 1.000 kWh of shared solar generation should receive a minimum bill of approximately 10 \$74.28, broken down as shown below. As stated before, subscribing customers with lower usage can expect to pay a proportionally smaller minimum bill under the Company's proposal. 12

## For a Residential Customer with a 1.000 kWh Subscription:

14	Distribution Service Charge:	\$27.32	or 2.732 cents/kWh
15	Transmission Service Charge:	\$19.89	or 1.989 cents/kWh
16	Generation Balancing Service Charges:	\$27.07	or 2.707 cents/kWh
17	Total Minimum Bill (1,000 kWh):	\$74.28 <sup>4</sup>	or 7.428 cents/kWh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This calculation is based on revenues from FERC Form 1, functionalized in accordance with the previous year's COS study for the Virginia jurisdiction. It also assumes that the Generation Balancing Service Charge exceeds the cost of non-bypassable charges. This calculation excludes the Administrative Charge, which is to be determined at a later date.

- Q. You mentioned that a smaller subscription would result in a proportionally smaller minimum bill. Can you provide some examples?
- A. Yes. Table 3 below illustrates (i) the total bill amount for a residential customer; (ii) the bill credit amount, (iii) the minimum bill; and (iv) the total bill amount for a participating residential customer at varying subscription levels:

Table 3: Examples of Subscription Size Impact on Minimum Bill

Typical Residential Customer Using 1,000 kWh					
Shared Solar Subscription Level (kWh)	DEV Bill Amount (\$)	Bill Credit (\$)	Minimum Bill (\$)	Total Bill (\$)	
1,000	\$117.96	(\$117.65)	\$74.28	\$74.59	
700	\$117.96	(\$82.35)	\$51.99	\$87.60	
500	\$117.96	(\$58.83)	\$37.14	\$96.27	
300	\$117.96	(\$35.30)	\$22.29	\$104.95	
100	\$117.96	(\$11.77)	\$7.43	\$113.62	

### Notes:

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- 1) Low-income Customers are exempt from the Minimum Bill components, except for non-bypassable charges.
- 2) Excludes Sales and Use Tax, Consumption Tax, Local Utility Tax.
- 3) Includes Non-bypassable Rider CE, Rider PIPP and Rider RPS.
- 4) Minimum bill does not include Administrative Charges that will be determined at a later date.
- Q. Subsection D of the Shared Solar Program Statute provides that low-income customers will be exempt from the minimum bill. How does the Company plan to recover costs associated with these customers' participation in the Program?
- 10 A. The Company recognizes that low-income customers, as defined by the Commission, will
  11 be exempt from all components of the minimum bill outlined above (except non12 bypassable charges). The Company proposes that costs associated with low-income
  13 customers' participation in the Program be recovered through the Fuel Factor.

- 1 Q. Is Commission approval required to recover these costs through the Fuel Factor?
- 2 A. Yes. 20 VAC 5-340-60 G 2 states that "[c]osts associated with [low-income] customers'
- participation shall be recovered by the utility in a manner to be determined by the
- 4 commission in the proceeding set forth in 20 VAC 5-340-80." Consistent with the
- 5 Commission's requirement in 20 VAC-340-60 F 6 that bill credits associated with the
- 6 Shared Solar Program be applied through the Company's Fuel Factor, the Company
- 7 seeks the Commission's approval in this case to recover costs associated with low-
- 8 income customers' participation in the Program through the Fuel Factor, as low-income
- 9 customers' bill credits are applied through the Fuel Factor but low-income customers are
- 10 exempt from the minimum bill.
- 11 Q. Does this conclude your pre-filed direct testimony?
- 12 A. Yes, it does.

## BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS OF ROBERT J. TREXLER

Robert J. Trexler is a December 1985 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's degree in Electric Engineering.

Mr. Trexler joined Dominion Energy Virginia in January 1986 and has held various positions with the Company since that time. Those positions have included engineering and planning positions within various departments in the electric transmission and distribution side of the Company. Additionally, in 2010, after holding numerous positions in the Company's Power Contracts department, Mr. Trexler assumed the role of Director of Power Contracts where he oversaw the solicitation, negotiation, and administration of non-utility generation power purchase agreements, as well as the negotiation and administration of the Company's wholesale sales contracts.

In 2013, Mr. Trexler assumed his current position as Director – Regulation within the Customer Rates Department. His responsibilities include electric rates implementation, special contract, non-jurisdictional and wholesale contract negotiation and administration, wholesale account processing, and the Electric Distribution Company activities related to the Company's participation in PJM Interconnection, LLC.

Mr. Trexler has previously presented testimony before the State Corporation Commission of Virginia and the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

## Shared Solar Program Workpapers Case No. PUR-2020-00125

### SHARED SOLAR PROGRAM BILL CREDIT AND MINIMUM BILL WORKPAPER

Revenues	Distribution	Transmission	Generation	Total
Residential	\$ 811,682,979.81	\$591,099,599.18	\$2,093,131,270.01	\$3,495,913,849.00
Commercial	\$ 359,114,026.92	\$314,015,554.10	\$ 1,600,584,317.98	\$2,273,713,899.00
Industrial	\$ 23,051,052.74	\$ 37,601,879.06	\$ 227,906,835.21	\$ 288,559,767.00
Total	\$1,193,848,059.46	\$942,717,032.34	\$3,921,622,423.20	\$6,058,187,515.00

Sales	Total
Residential	29,714,750,000
Commercial	31,932,404,000
Industrial	4,889,832,000
Total	66,536,986,000

Average Price (cents/kWh)	Distribution	Transmission	Generation	Total
Residential	2.732	1.989	7.044	11.765
Commercial	1.125	0.983	5.012	7.120
Industrial	0.471	0.769	4.661	5.901

## Notes:

Revenues and Sales from FERC Form 1 Annual Financial and Operating Report VA JUR pg. nos. 300 and 301, functionalized based on 2020 Cost of Service Study.

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## **Shared Solar - Avoided Cost Credit Workpapers**

<u>Line</u>	Solar Unit	<u>Units</u>	6/1/2021-5/31/22
1	Installed Capacity	MW	1.000
2	Capacity Credit	%	34.4%
3	Firm Capacity [Line 1 x Line 2]	MW	0.344
4	Capacity Factor	%	25.0%
5	Generation [Line 1 x Line 4 x 8.76]	GWh	2.19
6	Fwd On-Pk Energy Price	\$/MWh	35.34
7	Solar Energy Value	\$/MWh	35.34
8	Fwd Capacity Price	\$/kW/yr	51.10
9	Solar Capacity Value [Line 3 x Line 8/Line 5]	\$/MWh	8.03
10	Energy+Capacity Value [Line 7 + Line 9]	\$/MWh	43.37
11	Capacity Planning Year		6/1/2021-5/31/22
12	RPM RTO Auction Price	\$/MW/day	140.00
	[Line 12 * 365/1000]	\$/kW/yr	51.10
13	Calendar Year	\$/kW/yr	<b>6/1/2021-5/31/22</b> 51.10

# FERC Form 1 Annual Financial and Operating Report - VA Jurisdiction Year Ended December 31, 2020

Annual Report of Virginia Electric and Power Co.

Virginia Jurisdiction

Year Ended December 31, 2020

### **ELECTRIC OPERATING REVENUES (Account 400)**

- Report below operating revenues for each prescribed account, and manufactured gas revenues in total.
- Report number of customers, columns (f) and (g), on the basis of meters, in addition to the number of flat rate accounts; except that where separate meter readings are added for billing purposes, one customer should be

- counted for each group of meters added. The average number of customers means the average of twelve figures at the close of each month.
- If increases or decreases from previous year are not derived from previously reported figures, please explain any inconsistencies in a footnote.

		OPERATING RE	OPERATING REVENUES		
			Amount for		
Line	Title of Account	Amount for Year	Previous Year		
No.	(a)	(b)	(c)		
1	Sales of Electricity				
2	(440) Residential Sales	\$3,495,913,849	\$3,476,995,570		
3	(442) Commercial and Industrial Sales				
4	Small (or Commercial) (See Instr. 4)	2,273,713,899	2,635,118,228		
5	Large (or industrial) (See instr. 4)	288,559,767	353,932,267		
6	(444) Public Street and Highway Lighting		•		
7	(445) Other Sales to Public Authorities	-	-		
8	(446) Sales to Railroads and Railways	-1			
9	(448) Interdepartmental Sales	-	-		
10	TOTAL Sales to Ultimate Consumers	6,058,187,515	6,466,046,065		
11	(447) Sales for Resale				
12	TOTAL Sales of Electricity	6,058,187,515	6,466,046,065		
13	(Less) (449.1) Provision for Rate Refunds	0	(357,105		
14	TOTAL Revenue Net of Provision for Refunds	\$6,058,187,515	\$6,466,403,170		
15	Other Operating Revenues				
16	(450) Forfeited Discounts				
17	(451) Miscellaneous Service Revenues	-1	•		
18	(453) Sales of Water and Water Power	-1	•		
19	(454) Rent from Electric Property	-	•		
20	(45\$) Interdepartmental Rents	-	•		
21	(456) Other Electric Revenues	-			
22	(456.1) Revenues from Transmission of Elec of Others	-			
23					
24					
25					
26	TOTAL Other Operating Revenues	<del></del>			
27	TOTAL Electric Operating Revenues	\$6,058,187,515	\$6,466,403,170		

## **ELECTRIC OPERATING REVENUES (Account 400) (Continued)**

- 4. Commercial and Industrial Sales, Account 442, may be classified according to the basis of classification (Small or Commercial, and Large or Industrial) regularly used by the respondent if such basis of classification is not generally greater than 1000 Kw of demand. (See Account 442 of the Uniform System of Accounts. Explain basis of classification in a footnote).
- See page 108, Important Changes During Year, for important new territory added and important rate increases or decreases.
- 6. For lines 2, 4, 5, and 6, see page 304 for amounts relating to unbilled revenue by accounts.
- 7. Include unmetered sales. Provide details of such sales in a footnote.

MEGAWATT HOURS SOLD		AVERAGE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS PER MONTH		
Amount for Year	Amount for Previous Year	Number for Year	Number for Previous Year	Line
(d)	(e)	<u>(f)</u>	(g)	No.
				1
29,714,750	29,829,092	2,277,356	2,245,173	2
				3
31,932,404	34,471,638	230,751	229,187	4
4,889,832	5,591,450	577	588	5
				6
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				8
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66,536,986	69,892,180	2,508,684	2,474,948	10
				11
66,536,986	69,892,180	2,508,684	2,474,948	12
				1:
66,536,986	69,892,180	2,508,684	2,474,948	14

<sup>\*\*</sup> Line 12, Column (b) includes \$189,594,812 of unbilled revenues.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Line 12, Column (d) includes 2,418,107 MWH relating to unbilled revenues.

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2021, a true and accurate copy of the foregoing filed in Case No. PUR-2020-00125 was delivered by hand, email or mail first class postage pre-paid to the following:

Frederick D. Ochsenhirt, Esq.
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Arlen Bolstad, Esq.
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State Corporation Commission
Tyler Building, 1300 E. Main St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Brian R. Greene, Esq. Eric W. Hurlocker, Esq. Eric J. Wallace, Esq. GreeneHurlocker, PLC 4908 Monument Avenue, Suite 200 Richmond, VA 23230

John Warren Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy Washington Building 1100 Bank Street, Floor 8 Richmond, VA 23219 Alexandra M. Wyatt, Esq. GRID Alternatives 1629 Benning Road NE Washington, D.C. 20002